

Qualifying Developmental Delays

Developmental Delay means a delay in one or more of the following areas of childhood development as measured by appropriate diagnostic instruments and standard procedures.

Areas of assessment include:

- Cognitive development
- Physical development, including vision and hearing
- Communication development
- Social and/or emotional development
- Adaptive development, including eating skills, dressing and toileting skills and other areas of personal responsibility

A diagnosed physical or mental condition that has a high probability of resulting in a developmental delay:

- Chromosomal abnormalities or genetic disorder
- Neurological disorder
- Congenital disorder
- Sensory Impairment, including vision and hearing
- Severe toxic exposure, including prenatal exposure
- Neurological abnormality in the newborn period
- Low birth weight of less than or equal to one thousand five hundred (1500) grams

First Steps Eligibility Criteria:

Families who are eligible to participate in the Indiana First Steps System have children under the age of three (3) who:

- Are experiencing developmental delays (25% or -2 standard deviations from the mean in one or more developmental domains) or
- Are experiencing developmental delays (20% or -1.5 standard deviations from the mean in two or more developmental domains) or
- Have a diagnosed physical or mental condition that has a high probability of resulting in a developmental delay. [A child with a diagnosis may be eligible and not currently in need of services; in that case, the family will receive information on their rights, the child's current developmental level, community supports/services, and how to contact the system should they have further concerns or the child's status changes.]

Eligibility is determined by a multidisciplinary team using multiple sources of information and must be re-determined annually during a face-to-face meeting with the child and the family.